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FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0704

INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0705

RUEHFR/USMISSION UNESCO PRIORITY 0001

RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 001268

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/06/2017

TAGS: PINR PREL PGOV PTER MOPS IZ

SUBJECT: TERRORISTS SEEK NEW STRATEGIC TARGETS

Classified By: A/POL-MIL COUNSELOR APAR SIDHU FOR REASONS 1.4 (A/B/D)

1.(C) On April 12, Insurgents used a large tanker truck full of explosives to disable the Sarafiya bridge, one of twelve bridges spanning the Tigris to link Baghdad's Karkh and Rusafa districts. We have only confirmed the death of one Iraqi civilian in the bombing, which took place around 0700, before morning traffic reached its peak. The destroyed bridge connects Karkh to the Al Tib neighborhood of Rusafa, which adjoins the Sheikh Umar area where fierce fighting against Sunni insurgents took place on April 10.

¶2. (C) As we work to better protect the Iraqi public by hardening markets and creating gated communities, the enemy seems determined to identify other more vulnerable targets. The Sarafiya bridge would seem to be a key strategic target for the enemy, as it was one of only twelve bridges connecting the east and west Baghdad. It appears the enemy was not focused on killing civilians but on destroying key infrastructure to demonstrate its stealth and power despite the Baghdad security crackdown.
CROCKER